

Become a Certified Mediator



Serving as a mediator can be extremely rewarding and challenging. For those with the proper skills and training, there are few professional opportunities as satisfying as

helping people entrenched in conflict to find mutually beneficial solutions. Although Washington state has not set forth licensing requirements for mediators, experts in the field of mediation and alternative dispute resolution (ADR) agree individuals should complete a minimum number of training hours and supervised mediation hours prior to mediating professionally.

Our Practicum Internship leads to mediation certification

The Dispute Resolution Center offers a Practicum Internship which provides a unique and valuable opportunity to gain this experience in a safe environment. This 1-2 year internship involves observing actual cases, passing a Professional Standards Mock Examination, and co-mediating with experienced mediators to hone your skills. The program provides personalized support tailored to the needs of each student, and admission is selective. This practicum leads to certification as a mediator practitioner and the requirements of the program meet the guidelines for becoming a member and certified mediator with the [Washington Mediation Association](#).

Practicum Internship: Questions and Answers

After reviewing the content below, if you have additional questions or need more information on this opportunity, please feel free to [email us](#) or call 425-339-1335 or 800-280-4770.

Q: How do I apply to the Program?

A: Completion of a 40-hour Basic Professional Mediation Training is required prior to applying to the Practicum. If you complete the 40 hour class through us, an additional take home exam and an interview with staff will be required. If you complete the 40 hour class through another organization, an interview with staff and mock mediation assessment will be required. Please remember completion of the training and application to the practicum in no way ensures acceptance. The fee for our practicum is \$600 for students who complete their 40 hour training at this Dispute Resolution Center and \$1000 for students who are trained through another organization.

Q: How long will the program take to complete?

A: The program takes an average of 18 -24 months to complete, depending on the individual's schedule.

Q: Why would it be helpful for one to become a mediator? Why would it be useful to go through the certificate program?

A: People who take our trainings learn how to understand and manage conflict in their lives and are able to help diffuse conflict among others, both in personal and professional arenas. We offer dispute resolution skills that can be used in everyday conflicts and in formal mediation settings. Our goal is to provide you with skills that will be useful when resolving conflict.

Q: How many hours a month will I set aside for the certificate program?

A: On average, 10-12 hours a month will be dedicated to the program. This time is spent either in trainings, mediations or other DRC Practicum events.

Q: What do people do with the certification? What kinds of careers are available within the field of mediation?

A: As the field of mediation continues to develop and become more mainstream in Washington, the job market continues to grow. Various professionals who take our trainings such as lawyers, teachers, human resource professionals, and counselors often take the skills they have learned in our trainings back to their workplace and use their newly learned skills within their own professional field.

Becoming a private professional mediator is also a growing option, though like any private practice, marketing and developing clientele can often be complex.